



June 2004

Final Rule – Effective March 1, 2004

Arsenic Rule

Chapter 246-290 WAC

Water Systems Affected

Group A community and non-transient non-community water systems.

The State Board of Health rule revision sponsor agreed with the Office of Drinking Water recommendation to amend existing rules to include only those changes needed to be as stringent as the new federal rule and to reflect the Arsenic and Clarifications to Compliance and New Source Contaminants Monitoring amendments to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

The new rules include a lower arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for Group A community and non-transient non-community water systems. The 10 ppb standard does apply to transient non-community systems, and the previous 50 ppb standard for transient non-community systems has been removed from the rule.

Timelines and Requirements

January 22, 2001

- Federal rule adopted on January 22, 2001, 66 FR 6976, Vol. 66, No. 14 – View online at:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ars/arsenic_finalrule.html

March 23, 2001

- Date after which community water systems must include the appropriate arsenic statement in their consumer confidence report as dictated by the level of arsenic detected in their water system.

January 22, 2004

- Date after which all new community and non-transient non-community water systems or existing community and non-transient non-community water systems that use a new source must comply with initial sampling frequencies and demonstrate compliance with the maximum contaminant level within a time specified by the state.

January 23, 2006

- Date that the new arsenic maximum contaminant level of 10 ppb becomes effective for the purpose of compliance for all community and non-transient non-community water systems public water systems.

Purpose of Rule Change

Reduce the amount of arsenic allowed in drinking water for certain water systems by lowering the existing arsenic standard from 50 ppb to 10 ppb.

Public Health Benefit

Arsenic has been reported to cause more than 30 different adverse health effects including cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, skin changes, nervous system damage, and various forms of cancer from long-term exposure.

Revising the standard to reduce the amount of arsenic allowed in drinking water will lessen people's long-term exposure to arsenic and reduce the risk of adverse health effects.

Rule Development Timeline

August 2003
September 2003 - January 2004
January 14, 2004
March 1, 2004

Draft regulation prepared
Stakeholder comment period
Public hearing and rule adoption
Rule effective date

For More Information

Meliss Maxfield, Program Implementation Lead, 360-236-3178
Email: meliss.maxfield@doh.wa.gov

You can also visit our website at:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/regula.htm